

MARY PERSONEUS.

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JANUARY 18, 1889.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. LANE, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 12048.]

The committee to whom was referred this case beg leave to report that they have considered the same, and find from the evidence on file in this case that the complainant was the wife of William B. Cristfield, a sergeant of Company G, Forty-first Regiment Missouri Volunteer Infantry; that he served with credit in such capacity; that he afterwards enlisted as a trooper, in January, 1870, in Troop L, Seventh Cavalry; that he afterwards re-enlisted, February 1, 1875, in the same troop; and that he was killed in action with General Custer at Little Big Horn, June 25, 1876. It appears further that after the death of the soldier the widow married one Martin Personeus, who was also a member of the same troop as her former husband, and served in said company until his term of enlistment terminated. It further appears from the testimony that the said Personeus is now incurably insane, having been admitted to the Insane Hospital at Jacksonville, Ill., November 11, 1886, and discharged May 31, 1888, unimproved. The official certificate of the superintendent of said asylum is now on file with this committee to the effect that said Personeus is hopelessly insane.

It further appears that the said Mary Personeus has two children, the fruit of said marriage, who are now public paupers, and the said complainant is also a public charge, and is wholly unable to perform labor to support herself and her said children. It further appears that the said Martin Personeus, when in his right mind, filed a claim against the Government for a pension, claiming that his illness was due to his army service, but having become insane, he was unable to furnish the necessary proof as to the facts of the case and his wife has no personal knowledge thereof, and hence no relief can be had through the Pension Office. This woman, therefore, having been the wife of a soldier who fought in the war of the rebellion and defended the flag of his country and was afterwards killed in action with the gallant General Custer and she then having become the wife of another soldier who is now worse than dead—we think that this widow and the soldier's children should not be public charges while the country that they defended is amply able to support them; so we report the bill back with a recommendation that the same do pass.